

Application No. 10/055,734

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1. (Currently amended) A low power automated transfer switch for residential use to automatically switch power between a primary source of utility power and a backup source provided by an engine generator, the automated transfer switch comprising:

a single electrical panel housing:

a first circuit breaker connected to the primary source;

a second circuit breaker connected to the backup source;

at least a third circuit breaker connected to a load;

a pair of first and second electrically interlocked power relays, the first power relay electrically connected between the at least third circuit breaker and the first circuit breaker, and the second power relay electrically connected between the at least third circuit breaker and the second circuit breaker; and

control logic operably connected to the power relays and including a state machine controller to control the operation of the power relays to switch from the primary source to the backup source in the event that the control logic detects a decrease in at least one measurable characteristic of the primary source greater

Application No. 10/055,734

than a predetermined value.

2. (Original) The low power automated transfer switch of claim 1, wherein the state machine controller is a field programmable gate array (FPGA).
3. (Original) The low power automated transfer switch of claim 1, wherein the first circuit breaker and the second circuit breaker are rated for less than 10 kilowatts.
4. (Original) The low power automated transfer switch of claim 1, wherein the control logic provides control signals to start and stop the backup source.
5. (Original) The low power automated transfer switch of claim 4, wherein the control logic monitors at least one measurable characteristic of the backup source after it is started before switching from the primary source to the backup source.
6. (Original) The low power automated transfer switch of claim 1, wherein the control logic monitors the primary source via an optical coupling to detect the at least one measurable characteristics.
7. (Original) The low power automated transfer switch of claim 1, further comprising an operator panel positioned on a front of the electrical panel.

Application No. 10/055,734

8. (Original) A method of connecting a low power automated transfer switch for residential use to automatically switch power between a primary source of utility power and a backup source provided by an engine generator, the method comprising:

providing a single electrical panel for the automated transfer switch;

shutting off power in at least a portion of a main electrical panel that distributes the primary source of utility power within the residence;

wiring a first circuit breaker housed in the electrical panel for the automated transfer switch to a circuit breaker in the main electrical panel;

wiring a second circuit breaker housed in the electrical panel for the automated transfer switch to a connection on the backup source;

wiring at least a third circuit breaker housed in the electrical panel for the automated transfer switch to at least one load in the residence; and

turning power back on to the main electrical panel, such that the low power automated transfer switch is installed without requiring that power be physically disconnected from the main electrical panel.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the first circuit breaker and the second circuit breaker are rated for less than 10 kilowatts.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:

wiring control signals from control logic housed in the electrical panel to the backup source to start and stop the engine generator.

Application No. 10/055,734

11. (Currently amended) A method of operating a low power automated transfer switch for residential use to automatically switch power between a primary source of utility power and a backup source provided by an engine generator, the method comprising:

providing a single electrical panel for the automated transfer switch, the single electrical panel housing having:

a first circuit breaker connected to the primary source;

a second circuit breaker connected to the backup source;

at least a third circuit breaker connected to a load; and

a pair of first and second electrically interlocked power relays, the first power relay electrically connected between the at least third circuit breaker and the first circuit breaker, and the second power relay electrically connected between the at least third circuit breaker and the second circuit breaker;

detecting a decrease in at least one measurable characteristic of the primary source; and

in response, using a state machine to automatically control the operation of the power relays to switch from the primary source to the backup source.

Please add new claims 12-17:

12. (New) The low power automated transfer switch of claim 1, wherein the first and second power relays are configurable to simultaneously be in an open circuit state.

Application No. 10/055,734

13. (New) The low power automated transfer switch of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second power relays includes a relay switch configured as a single throw-type switch.

14. (New) The low power automated transfer switch of claim 1, wherein the at least one of the first and second power relays is controlled to perform a switching operation only at phase angles corresponding to about zero phase.

15. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the automatic controlling of the operation of the power relays includes operating the first and second power relays such that both power relays are simultaneously in an open circuit state.

16. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the providing includes providing at least one of the first and second power relays that includes a relay switch configured as a single throw-type switch.

17. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the automatic controlling of the operation of the power relays includes operating at least one of the first and second power relays to perform a switching operation only at phase angles corresponding to about zero phase.